United Nations A/C.2/56/L.7

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
26 October 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 2001/37, the Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism", the text of which is reproduced below.

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/156 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationships between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization,

Reaffirming paragraph 5 of its resolution 36/41 of 19 November 1981, in which it decided that the World Tourism Organization might participate, on a continuing basis, in the work of the General Assembly in areas of concern to that organization,

Also recalling the Manila Declaration on World Tourism of 10 October 1980 adopted under the auspices of the World Tourism Organization,[1] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and Agenda 21[3] adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on 14 June 1992 as well as the Amman Declaration on Peace through Tourism,[4]

Considering that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its seventh session, held in April 1999, expressed interest in a global code of ethics for tourism

[1] A/36/236, annex, appendix 1.
[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.
[3] Ibid., annex II.
[4] See A/55/640.

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and invited the World Tourism Organization to consider informed major groups' participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of its global code of ethics for tourism, [5]

Further recalling its resolution 53/200 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/40 of 30 July 1998, recognizing the support of the World Tourism Organization for the importance of ecotourism, particularly the designation of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of world peace,

Recognizing the important dimension and role of tourism as a positive instrument towards the alleviation of poverty and the improvement of the quality of life for all people, its potential to make a contribution to economic and social development, especially of the developing countries, and its emergence as a vital force for the promotion of international understanding, peace and prosperity,

1. *Takes note with interest* of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism adopted at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, which outlines principles to guide tourism development and to serve as a frame of reference for the different stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the objective of minimizing the negative impact of tourism on environment and on cultural heritage while maximizing the benefits of tourism in promoting sustainable development and poverty alleviation as well as understanding among nations;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for the promotion of a responsible and sustainable tourism that could be beneficial to all sectors of society;

3. *Invites* Governments and other stakeholders in the tourism sector to consider introducing, as appropriate, the contents of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism in relevant laws, regulations and professional practices, and in this regard recognizes with appreciation the efforts made and measures already undertaken by some States;

4. *Encourages* the World Tourism Organization to promote effective follow-up of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the tourism sector;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up developments related to the implementation of the present resolution based on the reports of the World Tourism Organization and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

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[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9* (E/1999/29).